Course: PSYC 101, Introduction to Psychology
Section: 002 (CRN 10301)
Term: Fall, 2016
Room: HRG 100
Class: Tues-Thurs 10:50-12:05pm

COURSE SYLLABUS (as of 08/23/2016)

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Roberta M. Diddel (pronounced did-dell, like the farmer in did-dell)
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RMD Office Hours: Tues/Thurs, 12:10 -1:00 p.m. (or by appointment) – Humanities 119
Teaching Assistants: Cylaina Bird: ceb11@rice.edu / cell/text: 972-816-4818
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Office hours by appt

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Become familiar with the most common areas in the field of psychology.
- Understand how research methods and tools, and forms of data analysis are used to develop and test theories about and our understanding of psychology.
- Recognize basic aspects of neuroanatomy, neurophysiology and neurochemistry that impact psychological functioning, contribute to the phenomenology of experience and motivate or explain behavior, including the functions of the brain, central nervous system, endocrine system and immune system
- Appreciate the effect of age, gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, social and political forces, and the global influence of culture on both individual psychology and group or societal beliefs and behavior.
- Develop critical thinking skills and a healthy skepticism for what they read and hear about psychology, in order to better assess the validity and reliability of that information.
- Gain insight into the nature of abnormal behavior and psychopathology and be able to evaluate the relative effectiveness of current treatment methods.
- Consider the ways in which the course material may play out in one's own life and may be useful in improving one's ability to function in the world and make the most of life.
- Students will demonstrate their mastery of these concepts by completing the scheduled course exams, and by participating in experiments conducted at Rice.

REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS

- ***Discovering Psychology, 7th edition***. Sandra E. hockenbury, Susan Nolan, & Don H. Hockenbury. ©2016|Worth| Macmillan Learning. ISBN-10: **1-4641-7695-7**; ISBN-13: **978-1-4641-7695-1**.
  - This text is available in either (a) an electronic-only version or (b) in a paperback version that also includes the electronic version as part of the package. Both versions include an ID number to access a set of electronic resources on a platform called ***LaunchPad***, which are required. You may purchase access to ***LaunchPad*** separately, and access to ***LaunchPad*** is available free for 4 weeks, if there is a delay in your ability to pay for the entire package at the beginning of the semester.
  - Earlier editions of the textbook are not acceptable.
  - For more information about the text and on-line resources, go to: http://www.macmillanhighered.com/launchpad/discoveringpsych7e/3640122
- Journal articles and other readings available on OwlSpace under Resources (noted as **Owl**)

EXAMS

There will be four examinations in this course, three in-class tests each covering 1/3 of the material, and a cumulative final exam. The in-class exams will include a mixture of essay and objective questions and are scheduled for the dates indicated on the draft schedule on page 4. The

final examination will follow a similar format, but will be open book and available on-line. Study guides will be posted on your course OwlSpace under the "Testing Info" folder in "Resources", one week before tests & review time allotted during the class prior to each test. Grading cut-off points will also be posted in the same folder.

RESEARCH REQUIREMENT

As a part of this course you are expected to get some hands-on experience with psychological research. The usual way to meet this requirement is to take part in five (5) hours of experiments as a subject/participant. Alternatively, you may satisfy this requirement by reading several research papers or chapters and writing a brief paper describing each. The requirement, various options, and your rights and responsibilities will be discussed further in class and are described: http://psychology.rice.edu/Content.aspx?id=68. This requirement will not affect your grade in the class, but you need to complete it in order to receive a grade. Regarding students not yet 18 years of age, you may not be eligible to participate in some or all these experiments because of IRB regulations; if that's true for you, please contact your instructor to discuss alternate ways of meeting this requirement. **This research requirement must be completed before classes end – no credits will be awarded after that day – and you must assign your 5 credits to this section (section 002) of PSYC 101 by the last day of classes as well – the system is locked after that**.

GRADE POLICIES

Course grades will be determined using these weights:

First exam -	20%
Second exam -	20%
Third exam -	20%
Final exam -	40%
Research participation:	0%, but must be completed to receive a passing grade.
Team challenge:	0%, encouraged but not required

There is no extra credit in this course. Since extra credit options must be extended to all students, they become in effect just another course requirement for those who wish to be competitive.

ABSENCE POLICIES

Attendance is not taken in this course, but since exams will include class material that may not be in the textbook or on the lecture slides, attendance is highly recommended. Exams will also cover the material in the textbook that is not presented in the lectures. Bottom line: to do well, you will need to read the textbook ***and*** come to class.

RICE HONOR CODE

All students will be held to the standards of the Rice Honor Code, a code that you pledged to honor when you matriculated at this institution. If you are unfamiliar with the details of this code and how it is administered, you should consult the Honor System Handbook at http://honor.rice.edu/honor-system-handbook/.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Students with a disability needing academic accommodations must contact Disability Support Services at adarice@rice.edu or 713-348-5841 to obtain a letter of documentation. Students should present that letter to Dr. Diddel by September 6th or within a week of the onset/diagnosis of the condition and discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To help us make proper arrangements, anyone requiring more time for a test or separate testing facilities ***must*** notify the instructor at least 2 weeks prior to the test.

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY

This syllabus is only a general guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice. Every effort will be made, however, to keep the syllabus requirements and dates unchanged.

CONTENT OF THE COURSE

- **General focus.** This course is an introduction to all the major aspects of psychology, as outlined in the course textbook. The emphasis is on the theories and research findings related to individual behavior, cognition and experience of mind. We will also focus on how these psychological phenomena may be associated with our experiences of everyday life, relationships and activities, and how they might be applied to improve the quality of one's life and functioning. The course is intended as a sampler for those intending to go on to more advanced courses in psychology, and also as a what-you-need-to-know for those students for whom this is likely to be your first or only psychology course.

- **Format.** The course will follow a lecture format, but the content of lectures will not follow strictly the material in the text and are likely to focus on topics not covered in the text or which extend beyond what is discussed in the text. Lectures will be interspersed with activities such as watching videos with discussion, problem-solving tasks, test-your-knowledge exercises, and experiments based on the topic being covered. You are encouraged to read the text carefully before attending class, in order to best understand and enjoy the class experience itself.

- **Study materials.** A detailed outline of the material from the text will be available in PowerPoint slides on our course OwlSpace under Resources in the folder "PP slides from the text", to help you identify the information on which you may be tested. Material from the classroom lectures themselves may not be in these slides, and they are available to help you study for tests. PowerPoint slides from class lectures will be available separately in the folder "PP slides from class", and, for most weeks, the lecture slides will be placed on Owlspace just before class. Although this may save you from having to copy down material, the slides are not always fully self-explanatory. A timetable of lecture topics and reading assignments is listed later on this syllabus. The overlap between text and lectures is around 50% - so attendance in class is strongly advised.

- **Team challenge.** To make studying and classes more engaging, the class will be divided into three teams of relatively equal size, and the three groups will compete for trophies, prizes and bragging rights at the end of the course. Results from the challenge will not affect your grade - this is only for fun – but might actually be the most memorable part of the course. During the first week of classes, you'll be assigned to one of the following three teams:
    - The Barn Owls
    - The Hawk Owls
    - The Screech Owls

  Class members can earn points for their team in the following ways:
    - Scoring 93.5 or higher on any of the first three tests (i.e., getting an A or A+)
    - Offering an unusually thoughtful comment or question in class
    - Using the "Forum" function on OwlSpace to make a particularly thoughtful statement about course-related material or to respond to someone else's statement

  OBID's (Oddball Identifications), posed in class or randomly by email:
    - Speed Quiz: First to correctly answer an OBID in class
    - Forum Post: First correct answer posted to OwlSpace Forum earns 1 team pt.
    - Forum Post: Best answer posted to OwlSpace Forum earns 1 team pt.
    - Other accomplishments to be determined

COURSE SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS

DATE	CLASS TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
Tues, 8/23	Course overview & introduction What do you know for sure?	
Thur, 8/25	History & orientations to psychology	Chapter 1
Tues, 8/30	Research	Appendix 1
Thur, 9/01	CNS, ANS & endocrine system	Chapter 2
Tues, 9/06	Neurophysiology, neurochemistry; brain anatomy	Chapter 2
Thur, 9/08	Sensation & Perception	Chapter 3
Tues, 9/13	Consciousness	Chapter 4
Thur, 9/15	Altered states of consciousness; Test Review	Questions for test review
Tues, 9/20	TEST 1	
Thur, 9/22	Learning	Chapter 5
Tues, 9/27	Memory – How we remember & Why we don't remember	Chapter 6
Thur, 9/29	The meaning and social function of language: Visiting speakers from the ASL department at UH	Chapter 7
Tues, 10/4	Motivation – Why we do (and don't do) stuff	Chapter 8
Thur, 10/6	Emotion	Self-observation chart
Tues, 10/11	**Mid-semester break – NO CLASS**	
Thur, 10/13	Lifespan development	Chapter 9
Tues, 10/18	Personality	Chapter 10
Thur, 10/20	TEST 2	
Tues, 10/25	Social psychology-obedience; impression formation; conformity; group think	Chapter 11
Thur, 10/27	Social psychology How would you develop a police training program?	Implicit associations test (See link on OwlSpace)
Tues, 11/1	Stress – Does it really have that much impact?	Chapter 12
Thur, 11/3	Health psychology in practice	Article 1 (on OwlSpace)
Tues, 11/8	Psychological disorders	Chapter 13
Thur, 11/10	Psychosis & serious mental illness (SMI)	

DATE	CLASS TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
Tues, 11/15	Psychotherapeutic intervention – theories	Chapter 14
Thur, 11/17	Psychotherapy in action; test review	Questions for review
Tues, 11/22	**TEST 3**	
Thur, 11/24	**Thanksgiving – NO CLASS**	
Tues, 11/29	Forensic psychology	No assignment
Thur, 12/1	Exam review; Course wrap-up Prize Day!	Questions for review
TBA - Registrar	Final exam – open book, on-line	

THE FOURTH/FINAL EXAM WILL BE OFFERED ON-LINE ON THE DAY SCHEDULED BY THE REGISTRAR, SO IT CAN BE TAKEN OFF CAMPUS ANYTIME THAT DAY. YOU WILL HAVE 2 HOURS TO COMPLETE IT FROM WHEN YOU START.